

Post Project Report

Oil Spills for:

USS Foster (29 Jan 1998)

USS Sacramento (8 Mar 1998)

USS Carl Vinson (15 Apr 1998)

Presented to:

Washington State Department of Ecology
Resource Damage Assessment Committee

Presented by:

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for Naval Base, Seattle

10 September 1998

***Spartina anglica* removal and beach cleanup at Indian Island**

1) Location

The project was located in tidal marshes of Indian Island, Jefferson County, Washington. The first area was the Walan Point Marsh at the northern end of the island, and the second area was the Indian Island Day Park Marsh on the southern end. Walan Point is part of Weapons Support Facility, Seal Beach, Detachment Port Hadlock (Det. Pt. Hadlock), and Indian Island Day Park is adjacent to Det. Pt. Hadlock land.

2) Description

Work parties numbering 15 people from the USS Sacramento (July 24, 1998) and 40 people from the USS Foster (August 6) dug up and removed thousands of pounds of *Spartina* plants and root-containing soils from these two areas. The plants were marked with flagging, dug up (Fig. 1), put into buckets or bags, carried away (Figs. 2-3), loaded onto a 1-ton flatbed truck (Fig. 4), driven to upland woods on Indian Island, dumped, and left to die and decompose well uphill from any wetland. All known *Spartina* plants were removed from the Day Park and Walan Point sites. In addition, after all *Spartina* were removed from these sites, a few personnel from the USS Foster and 15 people from the USS Carl Vinson (September 4) cleaned-up beaches adjacent to the Day Park area and approximately 1 mile of beach from Walan Marsh south to the boat launch by the Fire Station, removing 3 truck-loads trash including about 15 tires (Figs. 5-6).

3) Current ownership of the area and the adjacent area

The Department of Navy owns these restored marshes and the cleaned beaches. The areas are bordered by other Navy land and by Port Townsend Bay and Oak Bay.

4) Map/aerial photo

A map (Fig. 7) and 2 aerial photos of the areas follow (Figs. 8-9).

5) Benefit to resources potentially affected by oil spills

Native marine habitat, critical for shellfish, salt marsh plants, migratory birds, juvenile fish, and other wildlife, is being displaced by the exotic, invasive grass *Spartina anglica*. Removal of this grass will allow re-establishment of the native species.

6) Objectives met and exceeded

The goal was to remove all *Spartina* plants in these wetlands. Not only was this accomplished during the first two days of work, but due to the large number of people who worked during the second day (40), we were able to complete the *Spartina* removal, begin beach cleanup on the second day and continue beach cleanup during the third day.

7) Acreage restored

Approximately 15 acres of wetland were restored, and about 1 mile of beach was cleaned.

8) Level of effort and coordination of effort

The ships' crews provided the majority of the labor, as stated above. Personnel from the Navy's Engineering Field Activity NW (Kent Livezey; 360/396-0924), Washington Department of Agriculture (Wendy Sue Bishop; 360/902-1853), Pt. Hadlock (Bill Kalina, 360/396-5353), and Naval Base Seattle (Judy Conlow; 360/315-5006) coordinated, supervised, and took part in the work. Points-of-contact for the ships were: LT JG Mir (USS Sacramento), LT Gueck (USS Foster), and LCDR Allen (USS Carl Vinson).